



THE RIVER GUARDIAN SUMMER 2020

ARPOA BOARD: David Smith, President; Carol Vidrio, Treasurer; Judy Walle, Secretary & Newsletter Editor; Julie Gibbs, Web Director; Howard Johnson, Cedars for the Au Sable; Boyd Dillon, Steve Poulos, Chairman River Guardians, David Long, Margot Surridge, Micki Levin.



From the President

David Smith

These are definitely different times we're all going through. Three of the biggest things the Association does (our Cedars project, Purple Loosestrife invasive treatment and the Wine and Cheese gathering) have been cancelled in an attempt to keep our members safer. While they were hard decisions to make, they were certainly not taken lightly. I'm looking forward to things getting back to a new normal and to being able to resume activities I look forward to every year. And to resume them stronger than ever.

Please keep yourselves safe and I hope to see you on the river soon.

David

Cancellation of Events

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the ARPOA Board of Directors, after much consideration and discussion, has decided to cancel the 2020 ARPOA Annual Meet and Greet scheduled for July 18th. In order to abide by our By-laws to conduct an Annual Meeting to include election of officers and board members for the current year, you will be receiving a ballot via mail. (See details elsewhere in this newsletter). In addition, the Purple Loosestrife events on August 8th and 13th have also been cancelled. Plans are to conduct this event again in 2021. Also, see the article in this newsletter regarding the cancellation of the 2020 Cedars for the Au Sable project. Our primary concerns in the cancelling of all of these events are the safety and health of our members and volunteers.

Treasurer's Update

Carol Vidrio, Treasurer

DUES ARE DUE!

Our membership is growing! We now have 265 members who are supporting our efforts toward preserving and protecting the Au Sable River. Thank you to all of you!

As you know, our fiscal year begins on August 1st of every year. If you have not yet renewed for the 2019/2020 fiscal year or would like to make an additional donation, please do so by visiting our website at www.arpoa-mi.org to pay with PayPal or send us a check via mail to PO Box 15, Grayling, Michigan 49738. Your dues and donations are tax deductible per IRS 501(C)3 regulations.

We are always open to any suggestions our members have as to how you would like us to utilize your donations. You may leave any questions or comments by e-mailing us at arpoa.mi@gmail.com or visit our website at www.arpoa-mi.org.

Thank you, again, for your support!

2020 Annual Meeting



One of the highlights of each year is the ARPOA Annual Meeting (the Wine and Cheese Meet and Greet) when members can get together and over a glass of wine hear about issues important to the river. Another important part of the meeting, required by our by-laws, is the election of our board members.

This year, due to Covid-19, the Board of Directors made the decision to cancel the face-to-face meeting. However, we still need to elect board members so it was decided to hold the election via a combination of post and email. By the first week of July, a ballot will be mailed to every member with a request to return it during the following week. We thank you for your understanding during these very different times.

The following board members are up for re-election: Howard Johnson, Carol Vidrio, Boyd Dillon, and Judy Walle.

There is also an opening on the board for a one year term. If you are interested in running for that open position, reply by email, arpoa.mi@gmail.com or post, ARPOA, PO Box 15, Grayling, MI 49738. Please include a short one paragraph biography with a focus on the river. This self-nomination should be returned by June 29, 2020.

Boyd Dillon Wins President's Award

Boyd Dillon, an ARPOA Board Member, was awarded the Anglers of the Au Sable President's Award for Outstanding Conservation Service at the September 2019 River Cleanup. Boyd has been involved with various groups including the Mason-Griffith Founders Chapter of Trout Unlimited, where he is currently Vice-President, the Au Sable Watershed Committee, where he is currently Vice-Chair, Natural Rivers Committee, Anglers of the Au Sable, The ASBWPA, and Board Member of the Au Sable River Property Owners Association and others. Boyd has been seen surveying bugs and reds, measuring the river, attending numerous meetings, and even selling tickets. In his spare time he coordinates the guided float trips for the Bamboo Bend Project. Boyd, upon winning the award, was quoted as saying: "My reaction (to winning) was that there were many more people who were more deserving of this award. I was very humble and very appreciative of this consideration." Stop in to any event involving the Au Sable and thank Boyd for all of his hard work and dedication to our River. He is always there. **Boyd, a big congratulations and thank you to you on behalf of the ARPOA.**

At the same event, Josh Greenberg, Owner of Gates Lodge, was awarded the River Keeper Award for 2019. Next time you stop in at Gates be sure to congratulate Josh on his well deserved award.



River Guardians Needs You!

Steve Poulos, Chairman

The Association initiated the River Guardians project several years ago to monitor the health and status of the river. The Mainstream and South Branch were divided into reaches and volunteers recruited to float their section at least twice a year and report to the project leader. The reports include the date of the float and any issues requiring further investigation, such as indication of PFAS foam/contamination, invasives, obstructions to navigation, erosion, unpermitted structures in or out of the stream, etc. This information is shared with the appropriate agency for further investigation.

The reaches are below. If you are interested in participating as a River Guardian, contact the association at: Steve Poulos (517) 282-1836, poulos@msu.edu or arpoa.mi@gmail.com.

Mainstream

- Frederic to Pollack Bridge
- Pollack Bridge to Grayling (park in town)
- Grayling to Burton's Landing
- Burton's Landing to Wakeley Bridge
- Wakeley Bridge to McMaster's
- Mc Masters to Parmalee
- Parmalee to Camp 10
- Camp 10 to Mio Dam

South Branch

- Roscommon to Chase Bridge
- Chase Bridge to Smith Bridge
- Smith Bridge to the Mainstream

A Special Message to our Cedars for the Au Sable Participants and Sponsors

Howard N. Johnson, Cedars for the Au Sable Chairman

We are saddened to announce that, in light of the Coronavirus-19 Pandemic, we have decided to cancel the 2020 Cedars for the Au Sable project. Our primary concerns were the safety of our volunteers and participants; protecting the health of our larger community; and the lack of funds due to many of our traditional donors being unable to offer their usual financial support. We look forward with hope to the 2021 season and being on the river with you, planting and caring for cedar trees, once again!

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Save a Cedar...Lift a cage!

There are occasions when a maturing northern white-cedar planted on state land will out-grow its original cage before our work-crew can replace the cage with a larger 6-ft cage. We are asking if you see a cedar tree spiking out of the top of a cage, please lift the cage to save the cedar.

If while fishing on the river you notice a cedar that has out-grown its original cage, please loosen the four twist-ties securing the cage to the stakes and lift the cage 6 - 12 inches. Re-secure the twist-ties in the new higher position. You may need to re-position the ties secured to the cage to accommodate the changed height. There are times when the growing cedar has become tangled with the meshed top of the cage, so care needs to be taken while lifting the cage.

Photo Note: The top of the cedar is spiking out of the top of the cage!

There are about 2,000 northern white-cedars planted on state owned land on both the Au Sable and Manistee Rivers. Many other river conservations groups annually have work-projects to replace the original cages with the larger black 6-ft replacement cages. This larger cage is open at the top to allow the maturing cedars to continue to be protected while growing at the river's edge. Your help in lifting the cage will allow the current cage to protect the growing cedars until the volunteer work-crew can replace the cage in the near future. Please contact Cedars for the Au Sable chairman Howard N. Johnson with questions or comments at ausablecedars@gmail.com.



Now in its twenty-third year, the Cedars for the Au Sable project encourages river property owners to replant native northern white-cedar seedlings along the river's edge to help maintain the delicate balance of the river's ecological system. Since the beginning of this project in 1997 by the Au Sable River Property Owners Association (ARPOA), over 23,000 northern white-cedar seedlings have been planted and protected in enclosures.

Purple Loosestrife Treatment

By now you've probably begun to sense a theme... The volunteer events to treat Purple Loosestrife the ARPOA had planned for this August have been cancelled by board decision due to Covid-19 concerns. Because the Purple Loosestrife doesn't change due to the virus, the Board has an alternative treatment plan and requests your help in carrying it out.

The usual plan is that on one or two days, Association volunteers meet and canoe together, leap frogging down the river digging up the invasive plants and sharing a picnic meal at the end. The year, we are asking property owners in family groups to attack PL during your own floats down your favorite stretches of river.



Please follow the following protocol during your float:

1. Wait until mid-August to start. The flowers would be in full bloom making the plant easy to see.
2. Gather supplies consisting of trash bags and garden clippers.
3. Land your boat safely and bring a trash bag to the plant.
4. Gently cut the flower into the bag so no seeds escape.
5. Cut the plant off as close to the ground as possible and put the pieces in your bag. Don't let any stem pieces escape since they can start new plants.
6. Dispose of the bags in a landfill or burn the plant pieces in your campfire pit.
7. Enjoy your own picnic meal!

If you'd like, send an email to arpoa.mi@gmail.com describing your efforts. Include the number of people involved and the number of bags collected as well as an photos you want to share. Thank you!

The idea with this treatment plan is twofold. First, capturing the flowers and seeds prevents the plant from propagating. Second, clipping the stems at the ground will begin to starve the roots and hopefully, over time the plant will die.

DO YOU SHOP ON AMAZON?

If you do, here is a great way to donate to the Au Sable River Property Owners Association. Just log on to <http://smile.amazon.com> and choose us. Amazon automatically donates 0.5% of the purchase of eligible products to our organization.

ARPOA website

Looking for copies of old newsletters or more information on the Au Sable River Property Owners Association visit our website at www.arpoa-mi.org or join us on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/A.R.P.O.A.MI/>.

